

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 16, 2011

TO: Policy Committee

FROM: Scott Whyte, Senior Planner

SUBJECTS: Draft Tree Preservation Ordinance, Draft Specimen Tree Option, and Streetscape Policy Amendment

During stage I of the Zoning Update process staff presented an analysis of the existing tree preservation ordinance requirements, and several suggestions for amending the existing requirements, suggestions for a new specimen tree option, and proposed amendments to the Streetscape Policy to the Policy Committee in February 2011. To summarize, the committee suggested drafting a new tree preservation ordinance which assembled all existing regulations in one area, added provisions for phased clearing, discouraged clear cutting, and utilized staff in pre-construction inspections of sites that contain significant trees. The Committee also endorsed the creation of a new Specimen Tree Option, and proposed amendments to restrict the distance from the road a street tree can be planted and an amended list of suggested trees, to the Streetscape Policy. Staff explored adopting tree canopy percentage regulations and the option of applying tree preservation regulations to residential areas; however these two items are not being brought forward for phase II of the Ordinance Revision Update.

Following that meeting, the Board of Supervisors held a work session to discuss a number of proposed ordinance amendments for development standards. The Board reviewed the Policy Committee's recommendations for a new Tree Preservation ordinance, the creation of a Specimen Tree Option, and the proposed amendments to the Streetscape Policy.

Staff has constructed a draft ordinance for tree preservation during development which addresses the topics discussed at both the February Policy Committee meeting as well as the March Board work session. The new ordinance is intended to consolidate the existing tree preservation requirements and add the enhancements suggested by the Policy Committee, resulting in a clearer, more concise set of requirements that will assist staff in enforcement of the existing regulations. Staff has also drafted a new Specimen Tree Option and proposed amendments to the existing Streetscape policy.

Staff requests the Policy Committee offer comment on this draft tree preservation ordinance, draft specimen tree option, and proposed amendments to the Streetscape Policy prior to the Board of Supervisors work session in July.

Attachments:

1. Draft Tree Preservation Ordinance
2. Draft Outstanding Specimen Tree Option
3. Draft Outstanding Specimen Tree Designation Request Form
4. Streetscape Policy